

September 15, 1972

Dear Mom and Dad,

I just got finished typing out a short little paper for Vickie. She has only one to go now to complete one of her correspondence courses. She had written thirteen papers so far so I thought it was only right for me to do one. It certainly reminded me of helping Gail; I wrote it without a rough draft and Vickie's doesn't want to change a word. Now I am sure you know that I am just being truthful and not bragging. Vickie will register next Tuesday at Mary Washington and classes start later on in the week.

We went to Richmond last Saturday, came home Sunday and Monday drove down to Charlottesville which is about sixty miles from here. The University of Virginia is there and we drove around the campus. We also visited Monticello which sits on a very high hill just outside of town. It is nearly exactly the same as it was when Jefferson lived in it having been preserved by a historical society. The tour through it is just fascinating and tells you a great deal about Jefferson. You almost feel like you know him after seeing his bed, books, and many inventions. The house took forty years to complete and is quite a marvel. You definitely have to see it when you come out. Luckily the weather was cooler, in the low eighties, and very comfortable. We had a nice weekend and were sorry to hear that it rained in Washington. But what can you expect? Today it got into the nineties and then this evening we had quite a thunderstorm with lots of lightning. The intercession near us filled with water, but the rain soon stopped and it should be clear tomorrow.

It is supposed to be cooler over the weekend and we are glad as we are going hiking again. Bob Ellsworth is going to meet us up in Shenandoah National Park on Sunday. He is bringing some of his

hippy friends from the District. I will fit right in, though, as my beard has grown and my hair is kind of long also. Dr. Scherb, who works in my office is cooling too; he got us started taking by suggesting the last one. He is a German outsider but has been here about four years. Now they have told him he must either apply for citizenship or lose his security clearance. So, he is going back to Germany because his wife doesn't want to be away forever.

I gave my presentation on Wednesday and it turned out pretty good. There were only about twenty people there, so I wasn't nervous. It was classified confidential, but I really haven't had to learn any real secrets yet. It is just a nuisance, but I probably will have to do it later on. My work is going fine and I enjoy what I am doing.

Murray Spestein got admitted to Law School at the University of Miami and is down there now. We will invite him up around Christmas and hope to visit Miami and maybe the Bahamas next spring. We will have a busy spring as there are lots of people who say they will visit us. It will be fun because we see things all the time that we wish we could point out to our friends and relatives. We bought another mattress and springs on sale so now we are ready for visitors. Would you let us know when Gail and Greg might be coming out? I never did get their schedule straight.

We are thinking of taking bridge lessons at the Community Center. They would be every Thursday and don't cost much. By the way, we are getting along very well on my salary and save a relatively large amount. Well, goodbye for now - say hello to Gail, Gary, etc.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Jim", is located at the bottom right of the page.